

U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) continued his mission to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington by introducing legislation to reduce and cap the amount the federal government can spend on discretionary programs. The legislation is expected to save American taxpayers more than \$400 billion over the next five years by reducing non-security discretionary spending by two percent for each of the next three years and then freezing it for the subsequent two years.

Discretionary spending caps helped produce four balanced budgets and restrain the growth of discretionary spending in the 1990s. During this time, discretionary spending was allowed to grow by an average of 1.6 percent annually. When these caps were allowed to expire in 2002, discretionary spending skyrocketed and began growing annually by an average of 7.5 percent. Discretionary spending does not include entitlement programs such as Medicare or Social Security.

“One of the most important steps we can take to secure a stronger future for our country is to get our fiscal house in order,” said Congressman Boyd. “This legislation will help improve the fiscal health of our nation by reducing the amount of spending each year and forcing the prioritization of the federal programs that provide the most value to our citizens and our country.”

Today’s legislation builds on Congressman Boyd’s commitment to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington. In February, Congressman Boyd and members of the Blue Dog Coalition unveiled a 15 point plan that charts a course toward a smarter, more stable fiscal future. The Blueprint for Responsible Fiscal Reform contains bipartisan ideas to reduce our deficits, pay down our national debt, and balance the nation’s checkbook. It is comprised of commonsense and proven spending practices that helped generate the balanced budgets and surpluses of the 1990s.

Three key components of this blueprint have been introduced over the past few weeks.

In February, Congress passed and President Obama signed pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) legislation back into law, restoring a proven, commonsense principle that helped turn a \$220 billion deficit into a \$237 billion surplus by allowing Washington to spend a dime only by saving a dime elsewhere. The President also established a bipartisan fiscal commission to recommend ways to balance the budget and reduce the deficit that has been growing since 2002.

Earlier this month, Congressman Boyd introduced legislation that would amend the United States Constitution to require the President to submit and Congress to approve balanced budgets for the country.

“Collectively, these actions will continue our commitment to restoring fiscal responsibility in Washington, improve the fiscal health of our nation, and allow us to better invest in other critical challenges facing our country,” Boyd concluded.

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CONTACT:

Christopher Cashman, 202-225-5235